

# **OUTDOOR EDUCATION FUNDING WINDOW**

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT OUTDOOR EDUCATION Proposal's – GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

July 2013

*OUTDOOR EDUCATION (OE) grants are a subset of the larger Environmental Education program. OUTDOOR EDUCATION refers to educational opportunities dealing with basic ecological principles and the effects of natural and man related process on natural and urban systems and programs to enhance public awareness of the importance of safeguarding natural resources through participation in an outdoor field-trip experience.*

The intent is to fund projects that will provide a meaningful outdoor, wildlife-focused educational experience to public school students while still giving the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with the stated funding goals and objectives. Schools and districts are encouraged to submit proposals to cover the costs associated with field trips to an area important to local wildlife.

For the **2014 grant cycle year**, there is **\$16,000** available for **OE grant proposals** submitted. OE grant applicants can request a grant amount minimum of **\$500** and maximum amount not to exceed **\$2,500** within this funding sub-category.

In the event the number of OE grant proposals received by the Department exceeds funding availability, the following prioritization process will be utilized. In order of importance, priority will be given by the Department to applicants who: 1) request to participate at Youth Day or an event at the Hirsch Conservation Education Area, 2) have not received a Heritage grant in the last five (5) years, 3) applicants who are Teacher Ambassadors for the Department or have completed a Department sponsored professional development session, and 4) Title I schools.

OE proposals must be consistent with **ALL** of the following **requirements** listed below in order to be fully considered for Heritage Grant award.

**Requirement 1:** Proposals must be submitted by an eligible applicant. Proposals submitted by any Arizona public school, including charter schools or public school district is preferred. A school district may submit an application on behalf of several schools listed within their area of responsibility.

**Requirement 2:** Funding requests can only be used to cover transportation and substitute teacher costs incurred during the field trip. Funds cannot be used for entrance fees, food, drink, or other related costs.

**Requirement 3:** Field trip(s) carried out and completed during the spring semester of the 2013-2014 academic years (January – June) is preferred. This ensures any student or teacher involved in planning and research activities during the fall semester can take part in the actual field-trip activity during the spring semester.

**Requirement 4:** A field trip itinerary detailing primary activities, the number of students participating and the proposed field-trip dates must be included with the application. In addition, pre- and post-activities should be described to ensure that the learning continues beyond the individual field trip.

**Requirement 5:** Funding must be used for one of the following field trip options listed below.

#### **OPTION 1: YOUTH DAY AT THE OUTDOOR EXPO**

Funds can be used to bring students to the Department's 2014 Youth Day which will take place on Friday, March 28, 2014 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in north Phoenix. This annual event provides numerous educational opportunities that allow students to learn about wildlife and outdoor recreation. These include hands-on activities such as archery, fishing, crayfish science, and wilderness survival as well as numerous demonstrations and presentations. Information about the previous year's Youth Day can be found at <http://www.azgfd.gov/youthday>. Successful applicants are expected to sign-up when registration becomes available in December or January.

#### **OPTION 2: OUTDOOR RECREATION AT THE HIRSCH CONSERVATION EDUCATION AREA**

Funds can be used to participate in a hands-on outdoor recreation program at the new Biscuit Tank located within the Hirsch Conservation Education Area at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in north Phoenix. Programs may include a one or two hour presentation conducted at the school, prior to the field trip. While on-site, participants will engage in an outdoor recreation or wildlife education program of your choice. Successful applicants must choose one of the following programs:

- Paddlesports – Department staff will first visit the classroom to teach a 2-hour course on boating and paddling safety. Alternative arrangements to complete the classroom presentation portion can be combined and completed on-site the same day as the hands-on activity. Students who complete the classroom safety course, will have the opportunity to develop skills in paddling canoes and/or kayaks when they visit Biscuit Tank.
- Sport fishing – Department staff will first visit the classroom to teach a 1-hour course on fish biology, license requirements, fish identification, and fishing skills. Alternative arrangements to complete the classroom presentation portion can be combined and completed on-site the same day as the hands-on activity. Students who participate the classroom course, will have the opportunity to test their fishing skills when they visit Biscuit Tank.

Applications must include at least three potential dates for the classroom instruction and on-site field trip. Classroom instruction and field trip dates do not have to occur on the same day. Classroom and field trip dates must occur on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in February, April, and up to May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014. **Applicants seeking on-site support for both the classroom presentation and hands-on activity must specify this within their application proposal.**

#### **OPTION 3: WILDLIFE AND HABITAT RELATED SITE VISIT**

Funds can be used to transport students to one or more Department properties to explore habitat and wildlife first hand. Successful applicants will need to identify specific activities that students will engage in while on-site. Preference will be to activities that are: 1) inquiry-based, 2) hands-on, 3) standards-based, and 4) does not require Department staff participation. The following list of properties included in the 2014 funding window:

- Cluff Ranch Wildlife Area, Safford, AZ
- Colorado River Nature Center, Bullhead City, AZ
- Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area, Cordes Junction, AZ
- House Rock Wildlife Area, Jacob Lake/Marble Canyon, AZ
- Lamar Haines Memorial Wildlife Area, Flagstaff, AZ
- Mittry Lake Wildlife Area, Yuma, AZ
- Page Springs/Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery, Cottonwood, AZ
- Quigley Wildlife Area, Yuma, AZ
- Raymond Wildlife Area, Flagstaff, AZ
- Robbins Butte Wildlife Area, Buckeye, AZ
- Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area, Springerville/Eagar, AZ
- Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery, Payson, AZ
- Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival, Avondale, AZ
- Wenima Wildlife Area, Springerville/Eagar, AZ
- Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area, Douglas, AZ
- Willcox Playa, Willcox, AZ
- Yuma Wetlands, Yuma, AZ

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